

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIROITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GC: PROF. LEMAIRE'S COMMENTS ON
JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS (ITEM 77)

REF: NAIROBI 12761

1. APPRECIATE US DEL'S REPORTING OF CONVERSATION WITH
LEMAIRE AS PER REFTEL.

2. FOR TEL AVIV: PUBLIC STATEMENT BY LEMAIRE OR M'BOW
RE STATUS OF EXCAVATIONS WOULD BE QUITE USEFUL IN CURRENT
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DEBATE IN NAIROBI ON JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS WHICH SCHEDULED

TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 19. WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE ANY COMMENT OR SUGGESTIONS EMBASSY TEL AVIV MAY HAVE RE ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO MAKE OR, MORE REALISTICALLY, PERMIT UNESCO SECRETARIAT TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT EXCAVATIONS LARGELY COMPLETED OR IN TERMINAL STAGES (REFTEL PARA 3) IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ISRAELI IMAGE AT NAIROBI ON EXCAVATIONS ISSUE. WE ASSUME ISRAEL AWARE THAT OUTCOME ON THIS ISSUE WILL HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING ON U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO UNESCO; BUT WE HAVE SENSED ISRAEL PLACES HIGHER VALUE ON FIRM DEFENSE OF CLAIMED RIGHTS IN OLD JERUSALEM.

3. FOR NAIROBI: IT NOT REPEAT NOT CLEAR WHAT LEMAIRE MEANS BY U.S. COMING AUTOMATICALLY TO AID OF ISRAEL ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE WE HAVE ARGUED THAT ISRAEL'S ACTIONS DO NOT WARRANT SANCTIONS LEVIED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1974, ISRAELIS KNOW--AND WERE FRESHLY REMINDED BY RECENT SECURITY COUNCIL CONSENSUS STATEMENT--THAT U.S. DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THEIR ANNEXATION OF EAST JERUSALEM. IN ADDITION, U.S. ABSTAINED ON UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS CRITICAL OF THE EXCAVATIONS PRIOR TO THE 1974 GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION IMPOSING A SANCTION AGAINST THE DIGS. KISSINGER

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